

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /092 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7988

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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DAR FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG SF WA

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S BRIEFING FOR LOCAL CONTACT

GROUP AND BRITISH

1. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND LOW MET WITH CHIEFS OF MISSION OF THE LOCAL CONTACT GROUP ON MARCH 24 TO BRIEF THEM ON THE FORMER'S NAMIBIA MEETINGS IN LUSAKA. PRIOR TO YOUNG'S ARRIVAL, LOW TOLD THEM THAT BECAUSE OF HIS BUSY SCHEDULE, YOUNG HAD IN FACT ONLY ATTENDED THE ACTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR AN HOUR OR SO ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT HAD BEEN

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TO DISCUSS THE BROAD POLITICAL SITUATION WITH SWAPO. YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD NOT COME TO LUSAKA TO NEGOTIATE THE DETAILS OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL. RATHER, HIS PURPOSE HAD BEEN TO IMPRESS UPON SWAPO, AND PARTICULARLY NUJOMA, THE POLITICAL REALITIES WHICH SHOULD INFLUENCE ITS THINKING IN APPRAISING THE PROPOSAL. IT WOULD OFFER SWAPO A WAY OF REMOVING THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE FROM NAMIBIA. THERE WAS, OF COURSE,

ANOTHER WAY--THE ARMED STRUGGLE--BUT THIS ROUTE WAS APT TO BE LONG AND BLOODY. FURTHER, IF SWAPO AGREED TO THE PROPOSAL, THE FIVE WOULD BE COMMITTED TO CARRYING OUT ITS PROVISIONS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, SWAPO HESITATED AND SOUTH AFRICA MOVED TO AN INTERNAL SOLUTION, THIS WOULD GIVE RISE TO A NEW SITUATION LEADING TO WANING SUPPORT FOR MEASURES TO FORCE SOUTH AFRICA TO AGREE TO AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS HAS ALREADY OCCURRED IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. WALVIS BAY SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO WRECK THE CHANCES FOR GETTING RID OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA. ENCLAVES CONTINUE TO EXIST IN SOVEREIGN STATES. PRESIDENT NYERERE HAS CITED THE CASES OF GUANTANAMO, MACAO AND HONG KONG.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG INDICATED THAT AT TIMES NUJOMA AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE SWAPO CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPEARED TO HEAR AND UNDERSTAND WHAT HE WAS SAYING. HOWEVER, AT OTHER TIMES THEY WOULD DRAW BACK AND INSIST ON SWAPO'S SPECIAL POSITION AS THE CHOSEN REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NAMIBIA PEOPLE. WHY SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS; NAMIBIA WAS THEIR BIRTHRIGHT? THEY ALSO WOULD REVERT TO SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSAL. WHY DID THE FIVE REFUSE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC NUMBERS OF UN TROOPS? DIDN'T THEIR REFUSAL TO DO SO REFLECT HIDDEN, DEVIOUS MOTIVES AND WASN'T THIS PROOF THAT THE FIVE REALLY BACKED SOUTH AFRICA? AT THE END OF THIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SWAPO, AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID HE BELIEVED HE HAD AT LEAST

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MADE SOME IMPRESSION, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE THAT HE HAD INFLUENCED SWAPO TOWARDS A MORE REALISTIC APPROACH TO THE PROPOSALS.

3. YOUNG NOTED THAT NUJOMA HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM US DECLARING OUR VIEW THAT WALVIS BAY WAS PART OF NAMIBIA AS A CONDITION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF OUR PROPOSAL.

4. AFTER DEPARTURE OF THE FRENCH, BRITISH AND CANADIAN CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS, AMBASSADOR YOUNG BRIEFED THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ON HIS CONTACTS RELATING TO RHODESIA--NKOMO, UANC, ZANU/SITHOLE AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA. HE AND LOW DESCRIBED IN GENERAL THE CONVERSATION WITH NKOMO, NOTING THE ZAPU LEADER'S STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND CALLING ATTENTION TO HIS APPARENT EMPHASIS ON POLITICAL AS OPPOSED TO MILITARY ACTION AS A DESTRUCTIVE FORCE

IF AN INTERNAL ELECTION OR REFERENDUM WERE TO TAKE PLACE. WE NOTED AN APPARENT INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE SEARCH FOR A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT ON THE PART OF THE ZAMBIA.

5. COMMENT: CONTACT GROUP REPRESENTATIVES IN LUSAKA WERE MOST

APPRECIATIVE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S WILLINGNESS TO TAKE TIME OUT TO BRIEF THEM IN PERSON ON HIS ACTIVITIES DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS. EVEN BEFORE HE CAME THEY WERE, AS A GROUP, MORE ENTHUSIASTIC AND SUPPORTIVE OF HIS EFFORTS THAN THEIR GOVERNMENTS OR NEW YORK REPS PERHAPS WERE, SINCE THEY RECOGNIZED THAT HE CAN EXERT POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE DIRECTION OF EVENTS IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO HAS BEEN HERE LONGEST AND IS MOST FAMILIAR WITH THE PROBLEMS, WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE GENERAL LINE THAT YOUNG HAD TAKEN, FEELING IT COULD MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION. LOW

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